ABSTRACT

In an error correction method for performing error correction on an error correction unit block in which main data are interleaved, after rearranging code lines in the order of error correction, it is judged whether the corresponding erasure position information indicates "erasure of data" or not with respect to only byte positions in a code line at a boundary between a main data area and a sub data area or a SY area, and erasure position information is set for only positions where erasure position information should be newly obtained. With respect to other byte positions, erasure position information at the same byte positions in a previous code line in the error correction order is set. However, when the previous code line is an error-incorrectable code line, erasure position information is set for all byte positions in a code line that is next to the incorrectable code line in the error correction order. With respect to the subsequent code lines, erasure position information is set until the target byte position reaches the next boundary between the main data area and the sub data area or the SY area. Thereby, the time required for error correction can be reduced.